

## **WE CLAIM**

1. A method for increasing leptin levels comprising administering to a subject suffering from a condition alleviatable by increased leptin levels, an amount of nicotinic acid or a nicotinic acid ester in an amount sufficient to increase levels of leptin in said subject  
5 in an amount sufficient to alleviate said condition.
2. The method of claim 1, comprising administering nicotinic acid to said subject.
3. The method of claim 1, comprising administering a nicotinic acid ester to said subject.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein said nicotinic acid ester is a nicotinic acid alkyl ester,  
10 containing a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl chain from 1 to 30 carbon atoms.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said alkyl chain contains from 1 to 22 carbon atoms.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein said alkyl chain contains from 1 to 18 carbon atoms.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein said nicotinic acid ester contains 12 carbons or 14 carbons.
8. The method of claim 1, comprising administering said nicotinic acid or nicotinic acid  
15 ester is administered orally.
9. The method of claim 1, comprising administering said nicotinic acid or nicotinic acid ester is administered topically.
10. The method of claim 1, comprising administering a composition which comprises  
20 more than one nicotinic acid ester.
11. The method of claim 1, comprising administering nicotinic acid and at least one nicotinic acid ester.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein said subject is suffering from a skin wound.